

LONGEST OF TUNNELS.

It Will Be Under Pike's Peak and Will Cost More Than Twenty Millions.

Two gangs of workmen have just begun digging in Colorado the longest tunnel that man ever attempted to construct. The main bore will be twenty miles long, and connecting with this are subsidiary tunnels with a total length of thirty miles. So, in reality, says the San Francisco Examiner, the task that has been put under way is that of digging fifty miles of tunnel, and every foot of this vast system will be under Pike's Peak and the mountains that tower on each side. The starting point of the main tunnel is at the foot of the mountain leading up to Pike's Peak, near the old town of Colorado City. This point is but a short distance from the railroad which spans the country between Colorado Springs and Manitou. From here it runs almost due southwest. The further end of the tunnel is at the edge of the mountains at Four Mile Creek, over in Fremont county, Col., six miles south of Cripple Creek and near the little town of Sunol. Two gangs of men, as stated, are working on the tunnel, one at each end. Just at present they are making progress at the rate of thirty feet a day. It is believed that the mammoth task they have undertaken will be completed in seven years from the first of the present month. The main tunnel will pass directly under the cone of Pike's Peak at a depth of nearly 7,000 feet, and 2,700 feet beneath the town of Victor. Its average depth from the surface will be 2,800 feet, and it is designed to test the mineral deposits of the territory at these great depths. Thirty miles of laterals are contemplated, and these will pass underneath all the Cripple Creek district at an average depth of 2,800 feet. Cripple Creek, Victor, Gillette, the various small towns and a thousand mines are to be made tributary to this system. Under present circumstances the distance—the shortest way—from Colorado Springs to Cripple Creek is fifty-four miles. By way of the tunnel the two cities will only be sixteen miles apart. It is estimated by the contractors that the average cost per foot of excavation will be \$80. This makes the total probable cost of digging the tunnel and its subsidiary branches \$20,000,000. All of this sum the tunnel people expect to crush out of the ore their workmen will break while excavating, or glean from the nuggets which may fall out of secret pockets as far below the earth's surface.

Made a Sensible Adjustment.

"There are two couples," said the bright old lady, "who are happy as the day is long, and yet their story is almost beyond crediting. But for the good common sense of one of the brothers there would have been four lives spoiled."

"Before Harry went abroad to study he was engaged to Nettie. Harry was always given to joking, and wrote his old aunt a letter, in which he intimated that he had found his fate in a charming French girl. It was impossible for the aunt to keep such astounding news, and it soon reached Nettie. Harry's brother Jim had always liked Nettie, and, believing the story sent over by the absent joker, caught her on the rebound. When Harry came home and heard that Nettie and Jim were to be married, the blow was a hard one, but he stood it like a man and pitied his brother. Of course, Harry treated Nettie rather cavalierly. It was a month before he congratulated her at all, and then his way of doing it was far from kind. Nettie was just as sarcastic in congratulating him upon his engagement to 'that French girl,' but, when he informed her that there was no such engagement, and never had been, she fled precipitately, yet not before Harry had seen that the news came to her as a terrible shock. Meantime, Nettie had a beautiful cousin come to visit her, and Jim made an unconditional surrender to her charms. He had liked Nettie, but he was unmistakably in love with the cousin. Harry thought he understood the situation, and had a frank talk with Jim. Then there were conferences within the four till they became the jolliest quartet in the county. At length there was a double wedding. No hint had been given of a change in program, but when it came to the ceremony Harry stood with Nettie and Jim with the cousin. The preacher was inclined to balk, and Nettie's father insisted that the young people had lost their minds. But they would be married, and married they were. They were the wisest lovers I ever knew."—Detroit Free Press.

Oklahoma Brushing Up.

It is probable that Oklahoma and the Indian Territory will soon be admitted to the union as one state. No other territory ever gained population so fast, and if the proposed new state were admitted now it would outrank fifteen of the present states in point of numbers. It is believed that there are 650,000 people in Oklahoma and the Indian Territory, and the number is increasing very rapidly. Of the 650,000 people in these territories 550,000 are white people. There are 60,000 individual farm owners and 40,000 persons engaged in other occupations. It is natural that this great population should clamor for statehood, especially since congress has conferred it upon several territories with not one-fifth as much population as Oklahoma has. —Atlanta Journal.

Trust.

"What sweet satisfaction it is," said she, "to have a friend you can trust." "And oh! what a convenience it is," replied Harpur, "to have a friend who will trust you."—Columbus, O., State Journal.

LIGHTHOUSE IMPROVEMENTS.

Changes That Have Been Made in Lights and Lenses.

Meantime the means of lighting was being steadily improved. The open five-give place to the oil lamp; then a curved mirror, called a parabolic mirror, was placed behind the lamp to bring the rays together; next, many lamps with mirrors were grouped about a central spindle, and some such lights are still in operation, says St. Nicholas. The greatest stride came when an arrangement of lenses, known as the Fresnel lens, in front of a lamp replaced the mirror behind it. This lens was rapidly improved for lighthouse purposes, until now a cylindrical glass house surrounds the lamp flame. This house has lens-shaped walls, which bend all the rays to form a horizontal zone of strong light which pierces the darkness to a great distance. The rapid increase in the number of lighthouses has made it necessary to have some means of telling one from another, or, as it is termed, of coloring the light its "characteristic." Coloring the glass made the light dimmer, but as red comes most nearly to white light in brightness, some lights have red lenses. The latest and best plan, however, is to set upright prisms at intervals in a circular framework around the lens and to revolve this frame by clockwork. Thus the light is made to flash every time a prism passes between it and an observer. By changing the number and places of the prisms, or the speed of the clockwork, the flashes of any one light can be made to occur at intervals of so many seconds for that light. Putting in red prisms gives still other changes. Thus each light has its "characteristic," and this is written down in signs on the charts and fully stated in the light-lists carried by vessels. Thus, on a chart you may note that the light you want to sight is marked "F. W., v. W. Fl., 10-sec.," which means that it is "fixed white varied by white flashes every ten seconds." When a light is sighted you see if those are its characteristics; and, if so, you have found the right one.

THE EARLIER BENIN.

Had a Progressive Monarch in the Olden Times.

Benin, of which we have heard a good deal during the last few months, was at one time the center of a considerable empire, as African empires go, says the London Saturday Review. The name will remind students of early voyages to India, and especially of Vasco de Gama's, the 400th anniversary of which will be celebrated this year. Portuguese curiosity with regard to India in those far-off days was whetted by the reports which either a king of Benin or his envoys carried to Lisbon of Prester John and the Nestorian Christians who held sway on the other side of the Indian ocean. Benin was then associated, more or less intimately, with Abyssinia, through which the knowledge of India reached the king of Benin. King Don Joan of Portugal sent forth two envoys via Egypt to discover the mysterious land whence Venice and other cities had drawn untold riches. He also dispatched Bartholomew Diaz on a voyage of discovery down the African coast, with the result that the cape was accidentally rounded and the way opened up for the great voyage of Vasco de Gama in 1497. Portugal for years previous to the representations made by the king of Benin dreamed of a direct sea route to India, and it is curious to think that four centuries ago a predecessor of the barbarian who now rules in Benin was instrumental in inciting her navigators to new efforts which eventually brought east and west into closer touch.

Graphophone Against Matrimony.

A confirmed old bachelor declares that the graphophone was the only thing needed to make the state of single blessedness far preferable to the cares and doubtful joys of matrimony. "I admit," he says, "that on a stormy night, when one does not feel like going to the club or some place of amusement or when one is under the weather and is confined to one's own room, it is apt to be decidedly dull; one tires of books and longs for companionship. That is to say, I used to feel in this way at times, before I bought the best graphophone that could be had for the money. Now I have only to set it going and I am amused all the evening. I have the most charming and soothing selections played to me on the piano, snatches from the opera and old ballads sung to me in the tenderest and sweetest of voices and a repertoire that is inexhaustible, for I can always have new music when I am tired of the old. If I have a cold I can put my feet in hot water and take a hot punch and be entertained as well as if I had a wife—and all without the worries of a household or any danger of the sweet voice becoming fretful or complaining. Besides," continued the crusty old misogynist, "I can always shut it up when I want to. I wonder how many husbands could do that to their woman-kind!"—New York Tribune.

Coffins from Their Favorite Tree.

Jamaica Swan and wife, an aged and wealthy couple living on a farm in Ingham county, Mich., fifty years ago planted in their dooryard a cherry tree, of which they became very proud because it grew so straight and to such a great size. After talking it over for several years the pair concluded to be buried in coffins made from their favorite tree, so several days ago the tree was felled and a mammoth log taken to Mason, from which the burial caskets will be made.

Philosophy.

Wallace—Why is it you always bet on the wrong horse? Hargreaves—It is so much easier to do.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

IT'S HUMAN NATURE.

Like Munching So Much They Hate to Be Unmistaken.

"I tell you," declared the reformed gambler to a Detroit Free Press man, "that there are people in this country who insist upon being swindled. Nine out of ten of the men who are caught know that they are going up against some kind of a hunko game. They have read all about it, but it is the infernal egotism of the average man that leads him into the trap. He knows that others have been caught, but he's too smart for anything of that kind, don't you see? I was at a county fair in Iowa exposing the tricks of gamblers. My graft was in selling a little book that I had on the subject. There was a pretty lively gang there from a back township, and when I showed them how the shell trick was done one big fellow insisted that he could locate the elusive pea and was bound to be on his proposition. I told him that I was out of the business, but that he was mistaken. Then they set up a cry that I was a fraud and afraid of my own game. I went over the whole thing again and showed them how they were fooled, but I must give the fellow a chance or they would wreck my whole outfit. At last, just to save myself, I let him put up his money and tendered it back to him after I had won. Then it took three other men to keep him from whipping me because I took him for a squealer. One or two others insisted on having a try at it and never turned a hair because of their losses. When it came to three-card monte it was the same. Each of half a dozen men was sure that he could pick the card, and, despite my warning, would have a try at it, and some of them two or three tries. When they were cleaned out there went up a howl that I was the rankest kind of a fraud, and they chased me three miles into the country before it was dark enough for me to escape."

GOBBLING OF AFRICA.

Part Played by England—Her Share of the Spoils.

Up to 1884 scarcely more than the edges of Africa had been occupied by the European powers, says the Atlantic. It was in that year that Germany suddenly began an attempt to realize her long-cherished aspirations for a colonial empire. She naturally made the attempt in Africa, as the only place where it was possible to make it, and in doing so she started all the nations in a wild race in fear lest their neighbors should get the advantage of them. In this scramble, if England has been left far behind by some of the others in the area of her gains, she certainly leads them all in their real value, and the prospect for the control of North America in 10. This is surely true if we consider Egypt an English possession, and we can hardly suppose that England will ever abandon that country, whatever depths of sentimental emotion may be stirred in varying moods; nor, considering the enormous benefits which result, would the world ever consent to such an abandonment. If it were not still much influenced by barbaric motives. It was a brilliant scheme which was attempted in 1894 to obtain from the Congo Free State a narrow strip of land connecting the waterway of Lake Tanganyika with the British sphere of influence to the north, and so to make an English highway from the mouth of the Nile to the Cape of Good Hope. Although it seemed the part of wisdom at the time to yield to the united objections of the other interested powers, it is by no means impossible that the object sought may be accomplished in the end. What is the total result? A little more than 11,000,000 square miles under the rule of England, 3,500,000 under that of the United States—together, more than one-quarter of the total land area of the globe.

Utilization of Fruit Stones.

The seeds or stones of many fruits which would apparently seem useless have some economic value, and in this connection we are speaking chiefly of those which are often thrown away, passing over many that are applied to ornamental uses. In certain parts of Egypt the date stones are boiled to soften them, and the camels and cattle are fed upon them. They are also calcined by the Chinese, and are said to enter into the composition of their Indian ink. In Spain they are burnt and powdered for dentifrice, and vegetable ivory nuts are said to be applied to the same purposes. Some species of Atalea nuts are burned in Brazil to blacken the raw caoutchouc or India-rubber. The seed or stone of the tamarind is sometimes prescribed in India in cases of dysentery as a tonic, and in the form of an electuary.

Materials for Gloves.

The materials from which gloves have been manufactured are many and varied. Iron gauntlets of the middle ages, embroidered leather and jeweled gloves of later times, gloves of hair, linen, velvet, satin and taffeta, gloves perfumed, washed, waxed and glazed, are to be found in the list. They have been made from horse hides, walrus hides, and even from the skin of whales; from the fibers of nettles woven like flax into thread, and from asbestos fibers, so that, like the napkins described by Pliny, they were cleaned by merely being thrown into the fire. Gloves have been made, too, from the silky byssus, the fibers secreted by certain mollusks by which they attach themselves to rocks, and a pair of gloves woven from this curious substance was presented to Pope Benedict XIV.—Exchange.

Wax matches are employed in Europe to an extent vastly greater than in this country.

Chances of Woman's Life.

An expert in vital statistics gives this as the result of his observations:

OF 1,000 women at the age of 20, 840 live ten years more; thus 84 in 100 live ten years more and 16 do not; the chance at the age of 30 of a woman living to the age of 40 being, therefore, nearly 16 to 1 in favor of living. Similarly, of 1,000 women living at the age of 30, 808 live twenty years more; so that we may say that 80 in 100 live to the age of 50 and that 20 do not; the chance at the age of 30 of a woman living to the age of 50 being, therefore, 4 to 1 in favor of living. Again, of 1,000 women living at the age of 40, 750 live twenty years more—that is, 75 in 100 live to the age of 60, and 25 in 100 do not; the chance at the age of 40 of a woman living to 60 being 1 in 4.

Equalizes Acetylene Gas Generation.

In order to control the generation of acetylene gas from calcium carbide, Letang and Serpillet propose, in a communication to the French Physical Society, to steep the fragments of calcium carbide in a hot and concentrated solution of glucose, says a foreign exchange. If the carbide thus treated is, after drying, immersed in twice its weight of water, acetylene is given off in the usual way, and at the same time a sucrose of lime is formed by the interaction of the glucose, the calcium and the oxygen. Under these conditions the generation of the acetylene takes place with great uniformity and is stopped almost immediately on cutting off the supply of water.

A Paradise for Women.

In the matter of woman's rights Abyssinia is far ahead of Europe and America. According to an authority, the house and all its contents belong to her, and if the husband offends her she not only can, but does, turn him out of doors till he is duly repentant and makes amends by the gift of a cow or the half of a camel—that is to say, half the value of a camel. On the other hand, it is the privilege and duty of the wife to abuse the husband, and she can divorce herself from him at pleasure, whereas the husband must show reasons to justify such an act on his part.

And Is Still Ready.

Mary E. Miller of Granville, O., about two years ago commenced a \$10,000 suit for breach of promise against Jno. A. Jones. The other day the defendant, through his attorney, filed an answer and cross petition in which he avers that he procured the license, as Miss Miller alleges, but that when he went to her residence for the purpose of taking her away as his bride, she absolutely refused to have anything to do with him. Mr. Jones states that he has since tried to induce her to marry him; that he has been and is still ready, anxious and willing to marry her.

Essay on Mouths.

Some mouths look like peaches and cream, and some look like a hole chopped into a brick wall to admit a new door or window. The mouth is a hotbed of toothaches, the bungalow of oratory, and a baby's crowning glory. It is the patriotism's fountain head and the tool chest for pie. Without it the politician would be a wanderer on the face of the earth, and the cornetist would go down to an unhonored grave. It is the grocer's friend, the orator's pride and the dentist's hope.—Monmouth Spring Monitor.

A Horseless Sleigh.

An adaptation of the Hollee horseless carriage, driven by a gasoline engine, to winter use, has been invented by Dr. Casgrain of Quebec. In place of the pneumatic-tired wheels of the ordinary Hollee carriage he substitutes steel runners for the forepart of the carriage, and a driving-wheel, whose rim is studded with steel points, for the rear part. The steering apparatus acts upon the forward runners. The gasoline reservoir, containing seven quarts, suffices for a run of fifty miles.

Sincerely Practical.

"This love that makes the world go round," she blithely sang. "Then how do you account for the action of the moon and stars?" asked the young man from Boston in his severely practical way. And he doesn't know to this day how much he missed by taking such a prosaic view of the matter. —Chicago Post.

Luther's Bible.

A museum in Berlin has secured possession of Luther's Bible, which he used in his study. Its margins are covered with notes in the reformer's handwriting. It was printed in Halle in the year 1609, and is said to be in an excellent state of preservation.

Desert Land Made Fruitful.

No fewer than 12,000,000 acres of land have been made fruitful in the Sahara desert, an enterprise representing perhaps the most remarkable example of irrigation by means of artesian wells which can anywhere be found.

Editor in Hard Luck.

N. Payton Howell has been editor of the Anna (Ill.) Union Democrat one week, and has already been sued for \$20,000 libel. But he says it will take more than that to scare him out.—Ex.

Our Coal Supply.

A geologist has figured out that the whole coal supply of this planet, if burnt at once, would not give as much heat as the sun does in the tenth of a second.

BUY A HOME--

One that You Can Pay For.

There is now offered for sale a number of small Cottages of from four to seven rooms each, and located in various parts of Omaha, at a price and terms that any man with small means can meet. These houses are situated on full-sized lots and in good repair. If taken within a short time they can be purchased for a Cash Payment down of

FIFTY DOLLARS

and the balance in Monthly Payments of \$10. each, and interest 4 PER CENT PER ANNUM. Upon the payment of the \$50.00 the purchaser gets a WARRANTY DEED; and to secure the deferred payments gives a first mortgage upon the premises. These are bargains that have never been duplicated in Omaha, and a good home is placed within the reach of everyone, no matter how limited his means, without having to pay almost usurious interest. For further information write to

M. L. ZOOK, 1615 Howard St., Omaha, Neb.

N. B.—Real Estate owners having property to dispose of on terms explained above will find it to their advantage to send me description of their property. No property covered by heavy mortgages wanted unless the rate of interest can be reduced to 4 per cent. per annum. M. L. ZOOK.

BUGLE PEALS!

—OR—

Songs of Warning for the American People.

A BOOK OF POEMS BY

ELIZA A. PITTSINGER.

"Mrs. Eliza A. Pittsinger is a poet of rare ability, especially in the realm of true patriotism. Her volume entitled 'Bugle Peals' contains the spirit and sentiment of the highest form of Americanism, and the 'grand and awful times' in which we live.

These poems constitute a clarion call for the defense of American citizenship and American institutions against the world."

J. Q. A. HENRY.

Pastor La Salle Ave. Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill.

If you want to breathe patriotism and renew your love of the Little Red School House; if you want to commune with gifted spirit, buy and read these poems. Price, 25 cents. Address: The American

AN UP-TO-DATE, . . .
ABSOLUTELY CORRECT,
BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED

Atlas of the World

Especially prepared to meet the wants of Farmers, Merchants, Mechanics, Clerks, Students, Women, and all who desire a complete work at the minimum cost.

Nearly 70 Comprehensive Maps.
140 New and Superb Illustrations.
A Whole Library of Itself, of vital and absorbing interest to every member of the household.
Population of each State and Territory, of all Counties of the United States, and of American Cities with over 5,000 Inhabitants.

[IT CONTAINS much special information regarding any Nation, Province, State, City, Town or Village desired. The knowledge is rarely obtainable from a school geography, which necessarily has only a few general facts and the location of important cities.

Railroad maps are notoriously incorrect and misleading, hence the puzzled rush-seeker, where large libraries are inaccessible, is without relief unless he is the happy owner of a knowledge-satisfying, pleasure-giving People's Atlas. All Countries on the face of the earth are shown.

Rivers and Lakes are accurately located.

All the large Cities of the World, the important Towns and most of the Villages of the United States are given on the Maps.

It gives a classified List of all Nations, with Forms of Government, Geographical Location, Size and Population.

This beautiful Atlas is bound in heavy paper cover, and will be sent to any address upon receipt of

AMERICAN PUBLISHING CO

The Priest,
the Woman,
And the Confessional

By REV. CHAS. CHINQUY,

\$1.00.

Remit by bank draft, postal or express money order, or by registered letter to the

AMERICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Edith O'Gorman's
CONVENT LIFE UNVEILED \$1.25